

Edgewood

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**U.S. Army
Chemical Materials Agency
(Provisional)**

Mustard neutralization begins at ABCDF

The process of destroying the bulk mustard agent stockpile at Aberdeen Proving Ground began April 23, 2003, under the accelerated program implemented by the Army following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

“We are safely accelerating the destruction of the mustard agent stockpile by more than two years,” said Kevin J. Flamm, Project Manager for Alternative Technologies and Approaches.

Destruction was scheduled for completion by the year 2006, but security concerns after the terrorist attacks led to “Speedy Neut,” which reordered the original neutralization process. Now the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ABCDF) is removing the greater risk by destroying the mustard agent first. After the agent has been destroyed, the empty steel containers will be decontaminated, then recycled off-site.

“This plan was made possible because of the dedicated team already in place working on the original destruction facility,” said Joseph Lovrich, ABCDF site manager. “The team reworked the existing plans to find a solution that would dispose of the agent sooner, without compromising safety or security.”

The diverse team includes government personnel, such as the Army Corps of Engineers, and contractors. Bechtel Aberdeen, the contractor responsible for the project, heads a team of more than 400 people to destroy the mustard agent, a syrupy blister compound with the consistency of molasses. It has been safely stored and monitored for more than 60 years at the Chemical Agent Storage Yard, under the supervision of the Edgewood Chemical Activity (ECA).

“Every team member has received extensive training and is ready to execute this critical mission in an extremely safe and highly competent manner,” said Lt. Col. Gerald L. Gladney, ECA commander. “Each individual has a personal responsibility for considering safety first and safeguarding the workers, our community and the environment always.”

The U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit, with 60 years of experience in the movement of



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

John Ford of Abingdon, a ton container specialist, demonstrates how the containers that store mustard agent will be drained at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., as assistant ton container operator Wayne Stratemeyer of Essex looks on.

hazardous chemicals, moves the steel containers of mustard to the neutralization facility.

The Army worked closely with representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Maryland Department of the Environment, who approved the facility's plans and procedures. Employees will work around the clock for six months to destroy the agent. Following a gradual ramp-up, facility workers are expected to drain and neutralize an average of 12 containers per day.

Bechtel Aberdeen Project Manager Lee Smith said the plant has been operating on a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week schedule of test, training and evaluation since early December, with workers compiling thousands of hours of hands-on experience.

“We take worker safety seriously,” he said.

“Everyone who works here is not only proficient at their job, but also in maintaining the highest standards of personal and plant safety. Our goal is to perform our mission while protecting our workforce, our community and the fragile environment of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.”

For details on the process, call the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 410-676-6800, or go to www.cma.army.mil, for information and fact sheets.

New Faces

"This is the first [change of command] where truly we can start to see the end of what we started many many years ago. The legacy of the Edgewood Chemical Activity is going to come to an end."

—Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command

Gladney assumes command of ECA *Takes responsibility for Edgewood's mustard agent stockpile*

Maj. William P. Huber passed the Edgewood Chemical Activity (ECA) colors to Lt. Col. Gerald L. Gladney on Jan. 8, during what may have been the organization's last change of command. The chemical agent stockpile for which ECA is responsible is slated for destruction this year, concluding more than 60 years of service as a deterrent against aggression.

Maj. Karl Gerhart narrated the ceremony at the Edgewood Area Conference Center, welcoming family members, friends, and civilian and military personnel, including Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM). Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Lewis, U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit, and Mary Jo Cavis, civilian executive assistant to ECA's commander, represented the significant role of the enlisted soldiers and the civilian work force in ECA and SBCCOM missions.

"This is the first [change of command] where truly we can start to see the end of what we started many many years ago," Doesburg said. "The legacy of the Edgewood Chemical Activity is going to come to an end. I think each and every one of you understands the symbolism and importance of this particular change of command and what it's going to mean, not just to the Army and to the Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, but what it's going to mean to the community."

Doesburg presented Huber with the Meritorious Service Medal, citing his "vision and desire for excellence," and thanked Huber for his "command presence, but more importantly, service to this great nation and this community of ours."

Huber thanked the command, ECA staff, his family, members of the community and representatives from federal, state and local organizations.

"Aberdeen Proving Ground is blessed to have great leadership on the Citizens' Advisory Commission and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program," Huber said. "You all truly are the best a commander could ask for in support of off-post emergency operations, and we could never have accomplished so much in the past 18 months without your dedicated support."

His next assignment takes him to Kuwait City, Kuwait, where he will serve as a senior chemical advisor to the Kuwait National Defense Force.



Photo by Conrad Johnson

Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, right, passes the Edgewood Chemical Activity colors to incoming commander Lt. Col. Gerald L. Gladney during the Jan. 8 change of command ceremony at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Edgewood Area Conference Center.

Doesburg welcomed Gladney, as "the right person for the right job at the right time, who has the leadership, the skill and the ability to do great things for our nation, for our Army and for this community."

Gladney's wife, Deidre, and the couple's son, Brentley, 12, watched as he addressed the audience for the first time as ECA commander.

"I am deeply humbled by the fact that I have been given this 'once in a military career' opportunity to command this organization and continue its legacy already firmly established by so many great former commanders," Gladney said. "I will try my very best to continue to maintain the lofty standards set by all of my predecessors and carry the legacy forward."

A native of South Carolina, his most recent assignment was as deputy corps chemical officer, III (Armored) Corps, Fort Hood, Texas. Gladney's military education includes the Chemical Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Airborne Qualification Course, the combined Arms Services Staff School, the U.S. Army Inspector General Course, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Joint and Combined Staff Officer's

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"Project Speedy Neut" wins award



Public Outreach and Information Office Chief Marilyn Daughdrill proudly displays the Department of the Army's first-place award in the On-going Programs Category of its 2002 Community Relations Awards Competition. The award was presented Feb. 6, 2003, in recognition of the U.S. Army Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization's public outreach program for "Project Speedy Neut," the accelerated destruction of the mustard agent stockpile currently stored at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. PMCD is now part of the Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional).



Photo by Nancy Hofmann

New organization combines chemical functions

The U.S. Army has created a provisional agency designed to enhance the safe storage and elimination of the nation's aging chemical weapons. The new organization, the Chemical Materials Agency (CMA - Provisional), combines the demilitarization and storage functions under a single director.



Michael Parker, Acting Director, Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional)

Photo by Conrad Johnson

Formerly, these functions were operated separately under the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization (PMCD) and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM), both headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md.

CMA, also headquartered at APG, is part of the program reorganization directed by then-Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White, who requested that Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Claude M. Bolton, Jr. assume overall responsibility for chemical demilitarization for the Army.

The acting director of CMA is Michael Parker, who currently serves as SBCCOM's deputy commander. The agency is expected to become an official Army entity by Oct. 1, 2003.

"The CMA brings all the parties under one roof necessary to carry out the mission of the safe storage and elimination of obsolete and aging chemical weapons in the United States," said Parker.

"With a Congressional mandate, the Army embarked on this mission in 1985, further supported by the U.S. signing the Chemical Weapons Treaty in 1997. As the Army moved further into the destruction phase, it became clear that this realignment would best position us to fulfill our mission."

Parker noted that the partnership with communities surrounding the stockpiles will continue to be "a cornerstone of this program."

"I have learned that establishing and promoting a cooperative working relationship between a broad spectrum of stakeholders can and will yield positive results," Parker added.

He emphasized that safety remains the Army's number one priority in destroying the weapons held at eight stockpile sites and found at numerous non-stockpile locations. The cornerstone of the destruction program has been and remains the safety of the public, the workers, and the environment.

In 2002, the Army accomplished much in its chemical weapons destruction effort, including the acceleration of the neutralization program for APG's mustard agent stockpile. The stockpile of nerve agent GB was destroyed at Tooele, Utah, a destruction facility was constructed at Pine Bluff, Ark., and testing efforts at a facility in Anniston, Ala., were completed. Destruction technologies were selected at Pueblo, Colo., and Richmond, Ky., and the program at Newport, Ind., was accelerated, using a technology similar to APG's.

So far, the Army has destroyed 8,082 tons of chemical agent, more than 25 percent of the original U.S. stockpile.

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—Michael Parker, Acting Director for Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional)

Gladney assumes historic last command

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—Lt. Col. Gerald L. Gladney, Edgewood Chemical Activity commander

Photo by Nancy Hofmann



Edgewood Chemical Activity commander Lt. Col. Gerald L. Gladney and Edgewood resident Bangtam Rose exchange thoughts on accelerated disposal of Aberdeen Proving Ground's mustard agent stockpile, following the Jan. 21 public meeting at Harford County's Edgewood Senior Center.

Course. Gladney holds a master's in administration from Central Michigan University and a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in chemistry from South Carolina State University.

In previous assignments at Fort McClellan, Ala., Gladney served as chief, Resident Training Branch; aide-de-camp for the U.S. Army Chemical School's commandant/deputy commanding general; S-3 operations officer, 84th Chemical Battalion; commander, Company C, 84th Chemical Battalion, and deputy inspector general, U.S. Army Chemical and Military Police Centers and Fort McClellan.

In Germany, he served as a regimental chemical officer, 11th Attack Aviation Regiment; and as an S-3 operations officer for the 7-159th Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Battalion. He later served as chief, Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Operations, J38 Readiness Division, North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.